

REMARKS

In the outstanding final Office action, the amendment to Fig. 22b submitted on July 15, 2004, was objected to on the basis of improperly introducing new matter. Additionally, claims 16-20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Edoga (5,746,766).

In response to the objection to the amendments to Fig. 22b submitted on July 15, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Included herewith is a photocopy of the originally filed Fig. 22b. As can be seen from the original Fig. 22b, there is support for the flattened bulbous tails depicted in the drawings submitted on July 15, 2004. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings are proper and that support for the amendment to drawing Fig. 22b is found in the original disclosure.

Turning now to the rejection of the claims under § 102(b), it is again respectfully submitted that the recited Edoga reference does not teach the bulbous tails 122 recited in the claims and as depicted in Fig. 22b. Significantly, the Edoga patent does not teach flattened bulbous tails but rather merely teaches apices defined by a looped structure. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that each of pending claims 16-20 and 23 define patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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